

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 15541 01 OF 02 040200Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 SS-15 DHA-05 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 /124 W
-----025439 040231Z /75

R 031603Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15541

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB, ICFTU
SUBJ: U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO: ICFTU REACTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 261432; (B)
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STATE 261433
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. WHEN NEWS OF U. S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO BROKE
NOVEMBER 1, OTTO KERSTEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU),
AND JOHN VANDERVEKEN, ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY,

WERE IN AMSTERDAM CONFERRING WITH LEADERS OF THE NETHERLANDS TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (FNV). CONTACTED BY THE PRESS, KERSTEN MADE AN ORAL STATEMENT THAT, ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN, EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE AMERICAN DECISION AND REAFFIRMED THE ICFTU'S DETERMINATION TO STAY IN THE ILO AND CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE THERE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. BACK IN BRUSSELS, KERSTEN ON NOVEMBER 3 ISSUED A WRITTEN STATEMENT AMPLIFYING HIS COMMENTS IN AMSTERDAM. THAT STATEMENT FOLLOWS IN FULL.

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS HAS NOTED WITH REGRET THE DECISION OF THE U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. THE ICFTU SHARES THE CONCERN ABOUT THE DISREGARD OF BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES, IN PARTICULAR THE SELECTIVE APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS, THE DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS, THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE ILO'S MANDATE AND THE EROSION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATION. DESPITE DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS, THE ICFTU FEELS THAT THE ILO REMAINS THE ONLY GLOBAL ORGANISATION IN WHICH TRADE UNIONS, TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENTS AND EMPLOYERS, HAVE THE RIGHT

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TO PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS AND TO VOTE ON MATTERS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY. THE ILO MOREOVER RETAINS A UNIQUE POSITION AMONG THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON ACCOUNT OF ITS CAPACITY TO ADOPT STANDARDS, WHICH GIVE RISE TO LEGALLY-BINDING COMMITMENTS, IN SUCH VITAL FIELDS AS THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS, AND ON ACCOUNT OF ITS SUPERVISORY MACHINERY. IT IS A STRONGLY HELD VIEW OF THE ICFTU THAT A FURTHER EROSION OF BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES MUST BE PREVENTED. THIS CAN STILL BEST BE DONE BY ACTING WITHIN THE ILO. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES WILL STRIVE TOWARDS THIS END. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE ICFTU TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HIGH IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF THE ILO-- TRIPARTISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND THE PURSUIT OF HUMANE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF LIFE AND LABOUR." END TEXT.

END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

3. THE U.S. DECISION WAS NOT A SURPRISE AT ICFTU

HEADQUARTERS, BUT WHEN THE NEWS CAME, IT STILL DEEPLY
DISTURBED SOME MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT. THE OFFICIAL
COMMUNIQUE, OF COURSE, DOES NOT CAPTURE THE FULL FORCE
OF ICFTU REACTIONS. PRIVATELY EXPRESSED EMOTIONS CONVEY
SENSE OF LOSS, DISAPPOINTMENT, AND EVEN FEAR FOR THE
FUTURE.

4. A KEY SECRETARIAT MEMBER POINTED OUT TO MISSION LABOR
ATTACHE THAT THE U. S. LABOR DELEGATION TO THE ILO HAS
PROVIDED A STRONG RALLYING POINT FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE
IN THE ILO'S BASIC PRINCIPLES. WHO, HE WONDERED, WOULD
BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE SAME LEADERSHIP NOW? THE BRIT-
ISH TUC WOULD BE A NATURAL FOR THIS ROLE, HE THOUGHT,
BUT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE LEAD AFTER THE
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DISAPPOINTING 1976 ILO CONFERENCE, WHERE THE TUC'S CYRIL
PLANT STUCK HIS NECK WAY OUT AND HAD IT CHOPPED OFF BY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 15541

A THIRD WORLD-ARAB-COMMUNIST COALITION. IT APPEARS THAT
THE ICFTU DOES PLAN TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS PUBLICLY
EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE IN THE
ILO. ICFTU SOURCES WELCOMED INDICATIONS IN THE
PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY MARSHALL'S STATEMENTS (REFTEL)
THAT THE U.S. IS READY TO RETURN WHEN THE ILO ITSELF
RETURNS TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES.MORRIS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0220
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From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771197/aaaadfob.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7893b322-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 261432
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 720907
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO: ICFTU REACTIONS
TAGS: ELAB, BE, ILO, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7893b322-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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